



- **Chesapeake Bay Gateways & Watertrails**
- **Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail**
- **Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail**
- **EO 13508: Chesapeake Bay Protection & Restoration - Public Access Development**

An aerial photograph of the state of Virginia, outlined in white. The terrain is green with visible topographical features and a network of roads. A yellow star is located in the southeastern corner of the state, near the border with North Carolina. Overlaid on the lower-left portion of the map is yellow text.

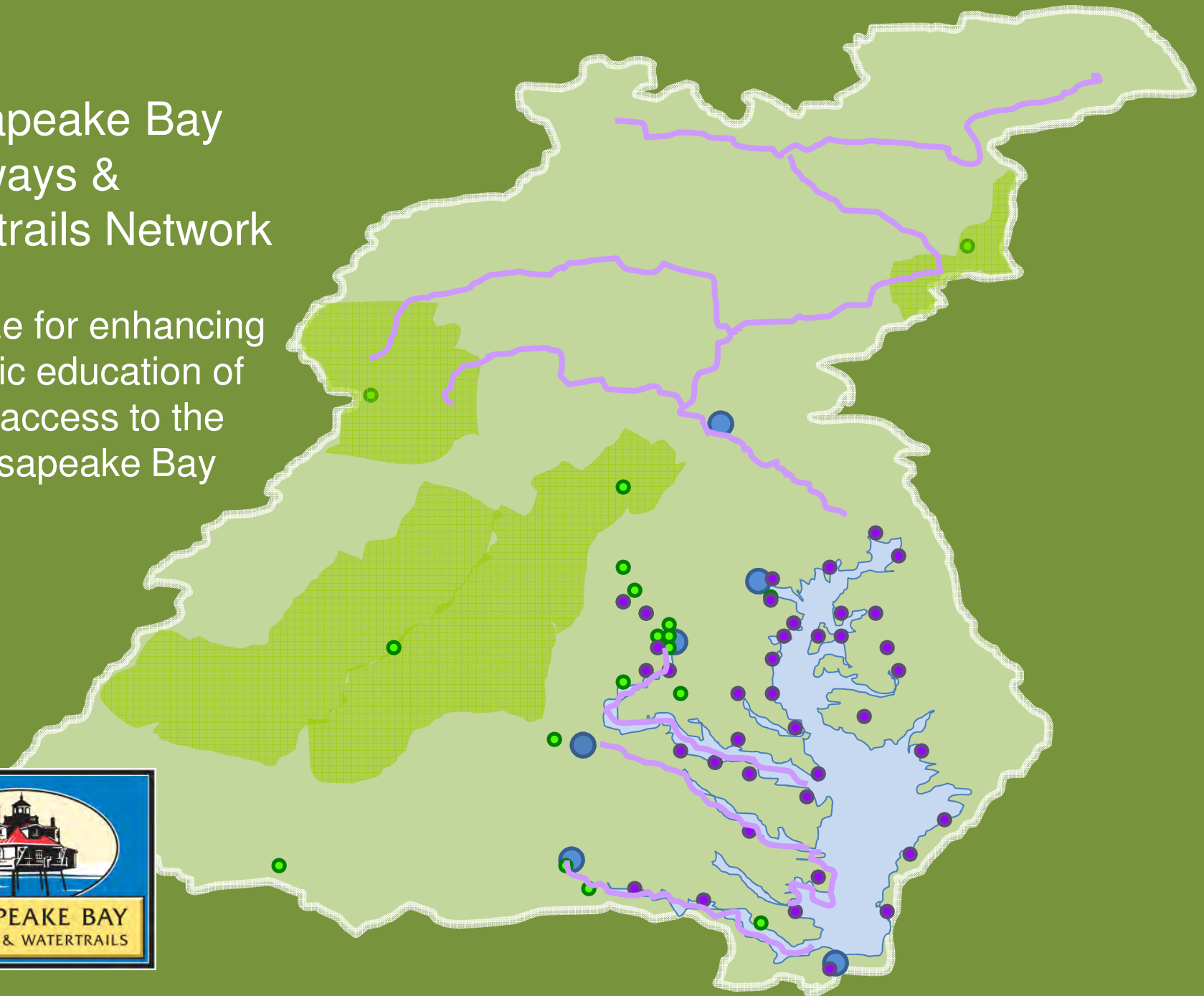
Universal Design for Water Access
September 11, 2013
Smithfield, Virginia



1998

Chesapeake Bay Gateways & Watertrails Network

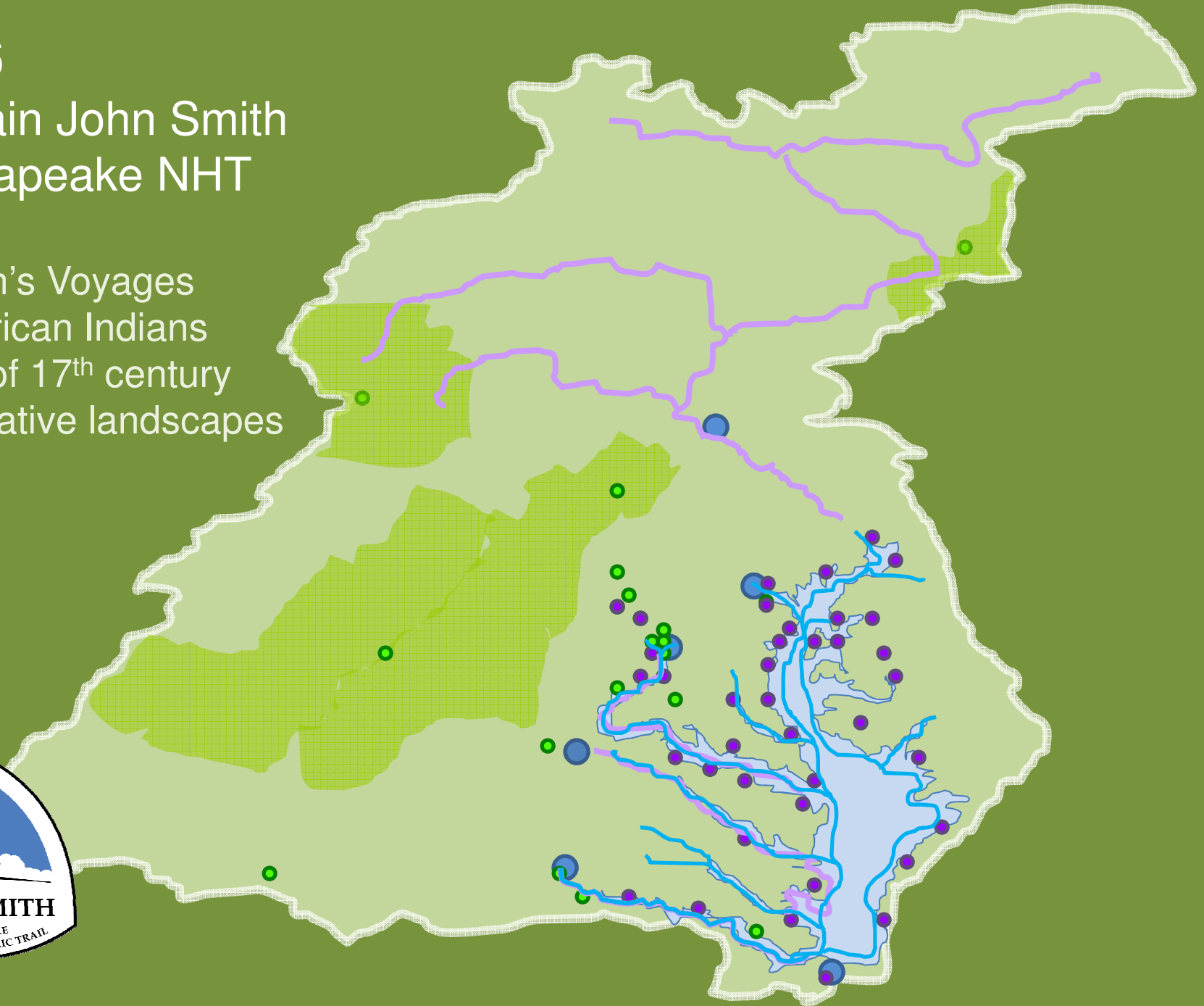
- utilize for enhancing public education of and access to the Chesapeake Bay



2006

Captain John Smith Chesapeake NHT

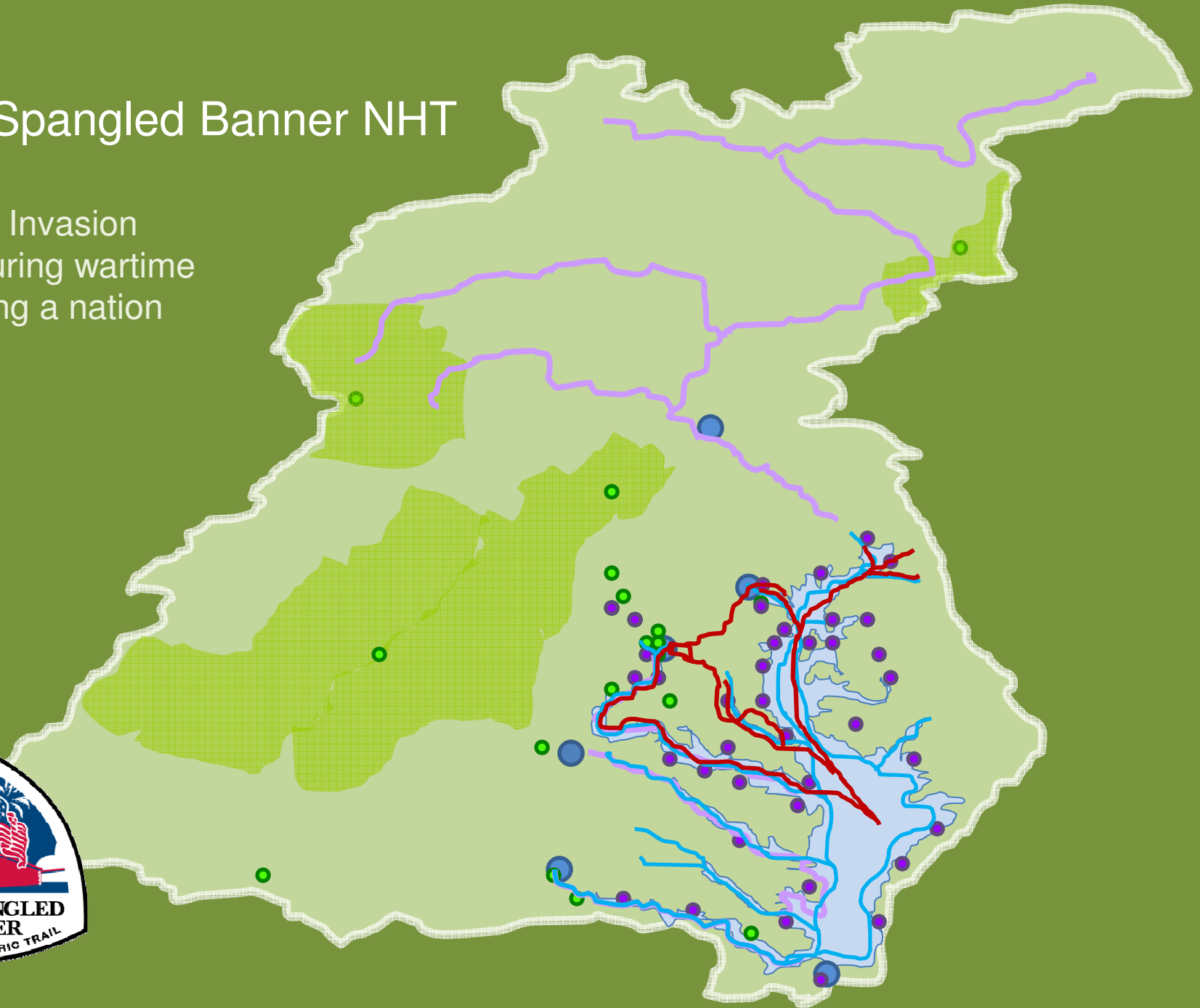
- Smith's Voyages
- American Indians
- Bay of 17th century
- Evocative landscapes



2008

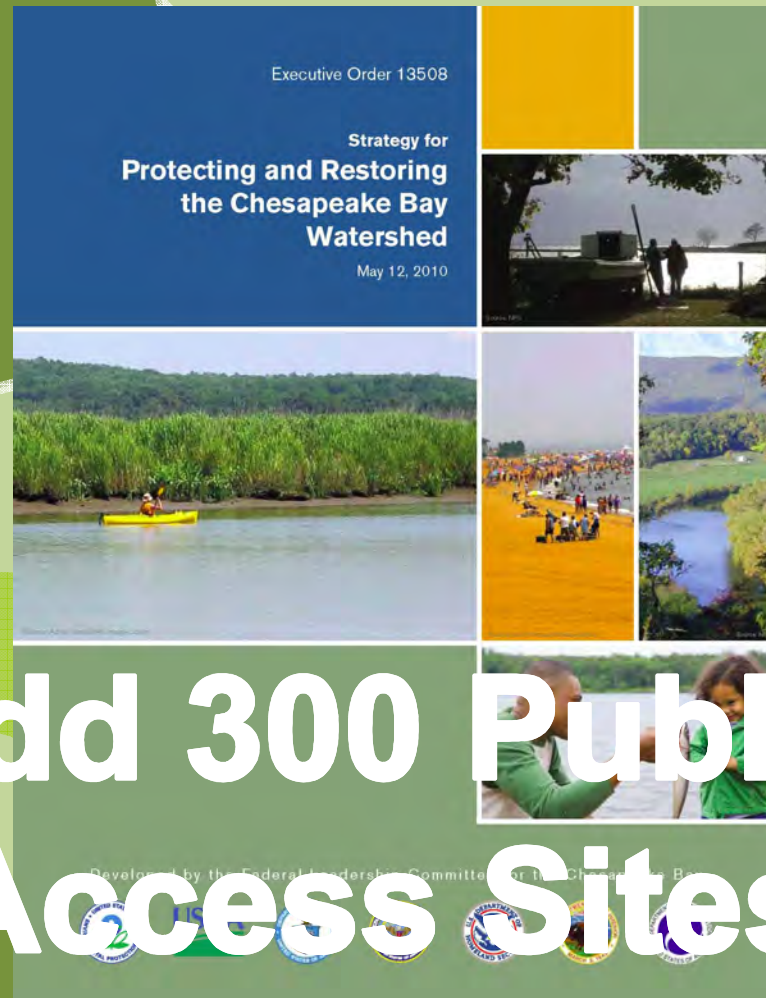
Star- Spangled Banner NHT

- British Invasion
- Life during wartime
- Defining a nation



2009

EO 13508: Chesapeake Bay Protection & Restoration

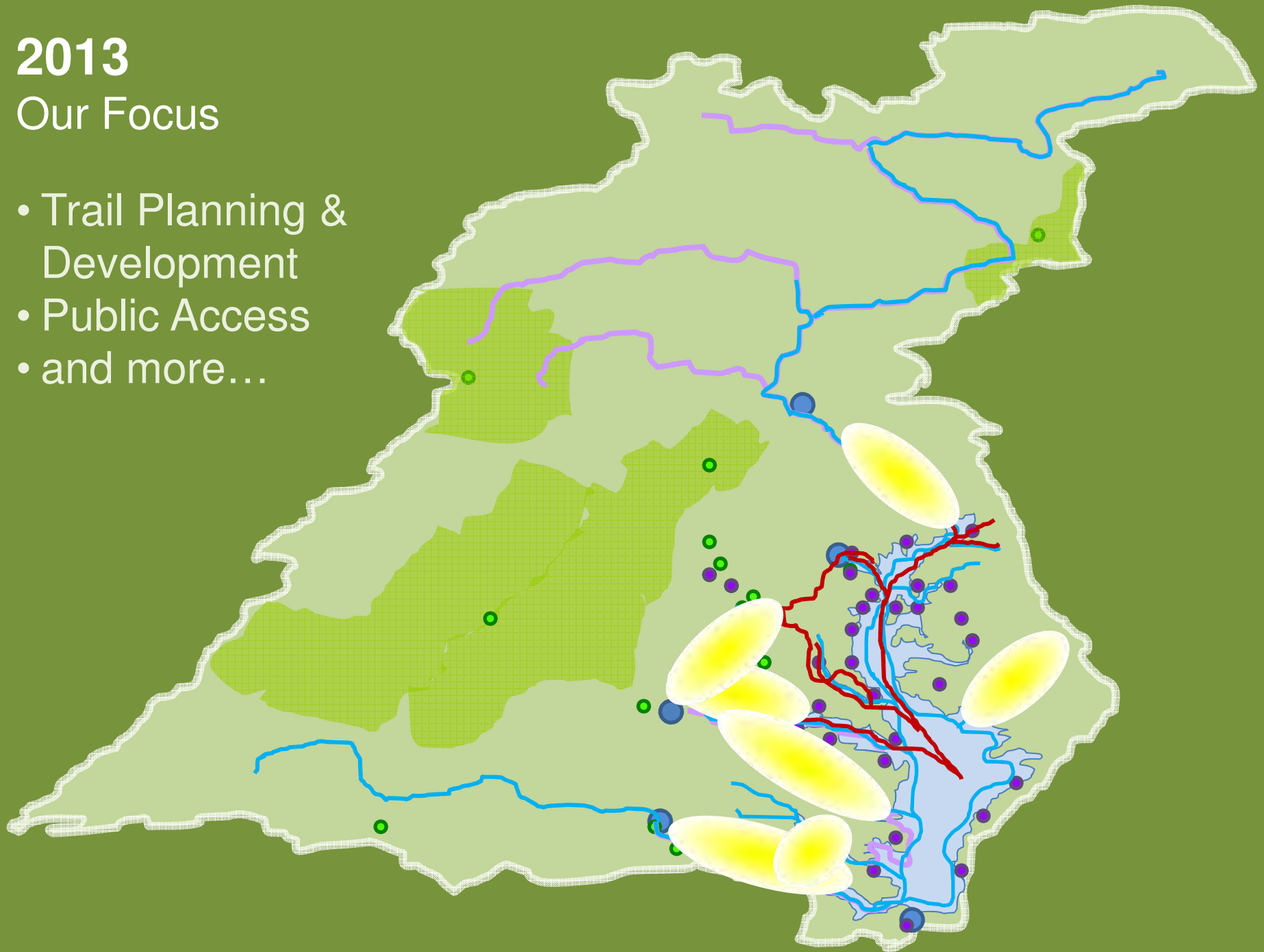


Add 300 Public Access Sites

2013

Our Focus

- Trail Planning & Development
- Public Access
- and more...





How We Work:

Trail Planning & Development

National Park Service Chesapeake Bay



Partners



American Indian
Descendant
Communities



... many more





James - 2011

Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



Making the Trail Visible and Visitor Ready: A Plan for the James River Segment

December 2011



Chickahominy River and Riverfront Park Focus Area

This focus area includes the sites and resources along the tidal portion of the Chickahominy River including Gordon's and Nettles Creeks and Morris Creek. The primary developed site here is James City County's Chickahominy Riverfront Park with 145,000 visitors annually. Other significant sites include marinas and campgrounds on the upper part of the river, a trail head for the Virginia Capital Trail and the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries' Chickahominy Wildlife Management Area (WMA) which offer both public boating access and wildlife viewing areas.

Area Characteristics

This area is characterized by a nearly unspoiled river and marsh system evocative of the 17th century. It was and still is a significant resource to the Chickahominy Indians and demonstrates a long history of sustainable use. The area is easily accessible by road and has direct connections to Jamestown via the Virginia Capital Trail and Route 5, a designated Virginia Byway. Chickahominy Riverfront Park, staffed full time, offers a variety of amenities for visitors.



Chickahominy River and Riverfront Park Focus Area

Proposed Trail Actions Along James Segment - Sorted by Focus Area and Site

FOCUS AREA	SITE	PROPOSED ACTION
Chickahominy River & Riverfront Park	Chickahominy Riverfront Park	Develop guided boat and paddle tours
		Develop series of signature events
		Develop trail interpretive programs
		Install rack cards or other media introducing trail related services in area
		Install standard trail-wide orientation/interpretation kiosk
		Install third orientation panel addressing immediate focus area
		Add link from park website to www.smithtrail.net
	Chickahominy WMA	Develop guided hike tours
	Virginia Capital Trail	Develop guided hike or bike tours
		Install orientation panel addressing immediate focus area
Chippokes & Hog Island	Chippokes Plantation State Park	Develop guided boat and paddle tours
		Develop guided hike or bike tours
		Develop paddlecraft access site on Lower Chippokes Creek
		Develop series of signature events
		Develop trail interpretive programs
		Install standard trail-wide orientation/interpretive kiosk/panels
		Install third orientation panel addressing immediate focus area and James segment
		Install rack cards or other media introducing trail related services in area
	Hog Island WMA	Install orientation panel addressing immediate focus area



L. Susquehanna - 2013

Potomac - 2013

James - 2011



How We Work:

Public Access Planning & Development

Chesapeake Bay Watershed Public Access Plan



To assist in meeting the E.O. goal of 300 new public access sites by 2025...

the *Strategy for Protecting and Restoring the Chesapeake Bay Watershed*, calls for a plan to assess the demand for public access...identify access opportunities...and help direct federal, state, and local funding toward public access opportunities.”

DRAFT Chesapeake Bay Watershed Public Access Plan

July 2012

Prepared by the National Park Service in collaboration with the Commonwealths of Pennsylvania and Virginia, the States of Delaware, Maryland, New York, and West Virginia, and the District of Columbia.



Chesapeake Bay Watershed Public Access Plan



**To develop plan to accomplish this task the
Public Access Work Group needed to:**

- Define Study Area
- Develop Definition of Public Access
- Inventory Existing Sites
- Identify Potential New Sites

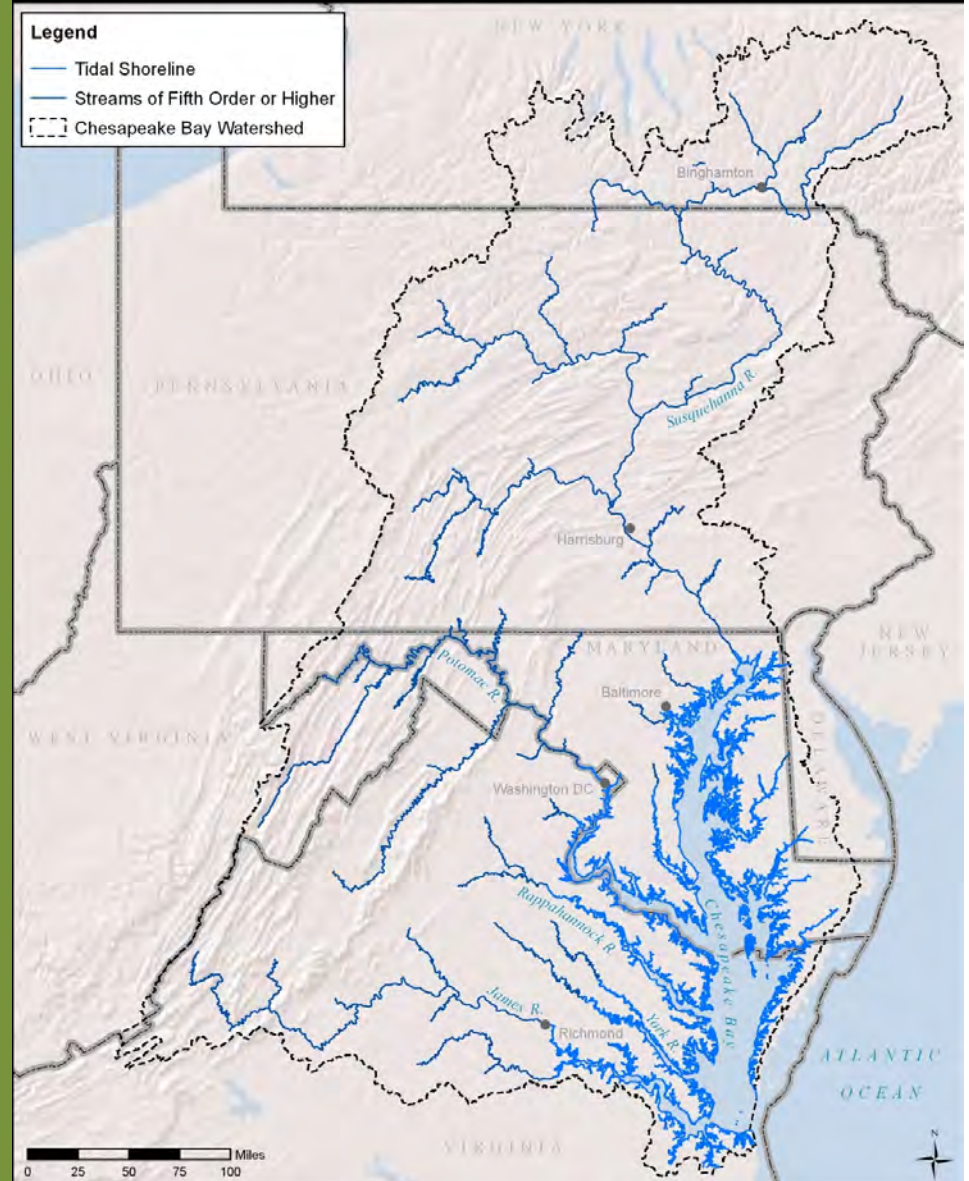
Chesapeake Bay Watershed Public Access Plan



Study Area:

- All tidal streams and bays
- Streams classified as “fifth-order” and higher
- Smaller than fifth-order when part of a water trail or contribute to its development.

Chesapeake Bay Watershed Public Access:
Tidal Shoreline and Streams of Fifth Order or Higher



Chesapeake Bay Watershed Public Access Plan



Definition:

Public access sites are locations owned and managed by a public entity (or a nonprofit organization in an agreement with a public entity) for the purposes of providing:

- Boat-related access: boat ramps, car-top boat launches, soft launches (supporting paddle craft, motor, and/or sail boats).
- Swimming access: designated areas appropriate for swimming

Chesapeake Bay Watershed Public Access Plan



Definition: (cont.):

- Fishing access: piers, bank fishing facilities or easements, and parking adjacent to the water
- Viewing access for water, wildlife, and shoreline areas: nature trails, hiking or biking trails, waterfront access trails, boardwalks, and observation decks located at or leading directly to the water's edge.

Chesapeake Bay Watershed Public Access Plan



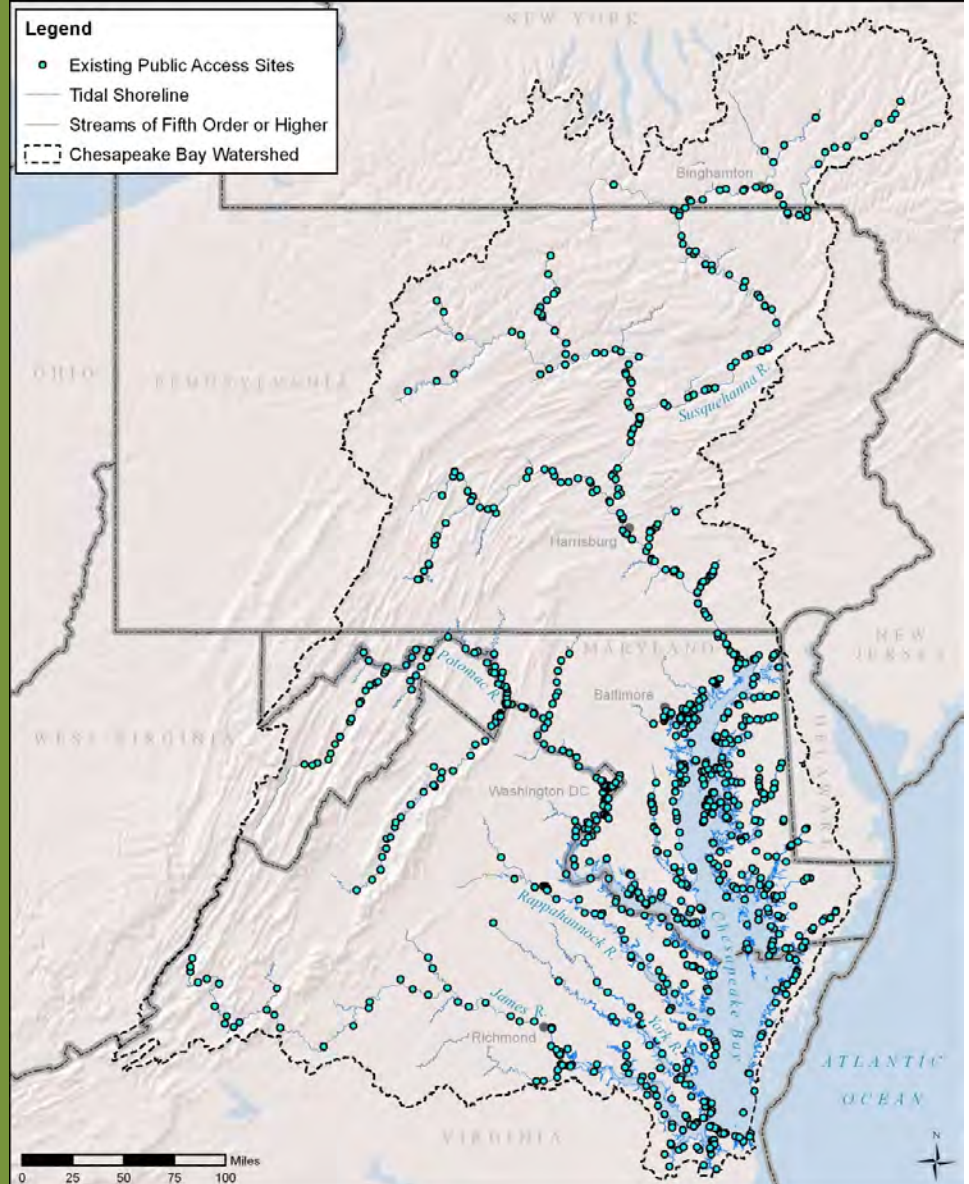
Inventory Process:

- Review existing data
- Public workshops
- On-line public mapping tool

Results:

- 1,150 existing sites
- sites average 15 miles apart
- Less than half provide boat access

Chesapeake Bay Watershed Public Access:
Existing Public Access Sites





Potential New Site Identification:

- Planning team reviewed existing planning documents
- Members of the public identified hundreds of additional desired sites at workshops and on-line.
- Team reviewed and refined the list of sites for this plan

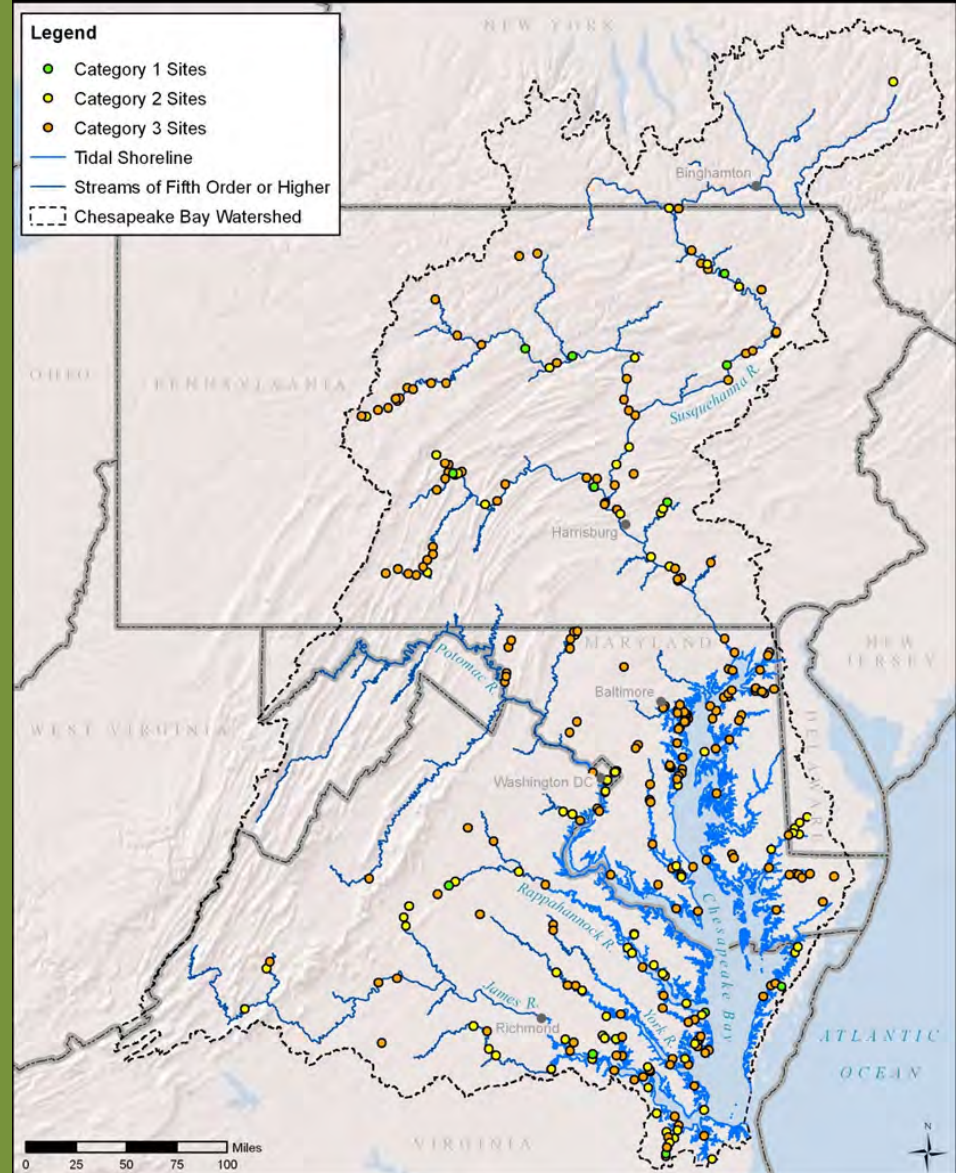
Chesapeake Bay Watershed Public Access Plan



Results of Process:

- 320 specific potential new sites identified
- Over half are on publicly owned land.
- Boat launches are the most frequently suggested access type for these sites (47% of the total sites).

Chesapeake Bay Watershed Public Access:
Potential Public Access Sites



Chesapeake Bay Watershed Public Access Plan



Potential New Sites Continued:

- A high demand for new public access sites is frequently concentrated in and around urban areas.
- A large number potential sites are along existing water trails or national historic trails, which can bring strong community and local support for developing needed sites.
- Members of the paddling public frequently expressed a desire for small primitive campsites, picnic areas, and restrooms at appropriate locations along water trails.

Chesapeake Bay Watershed Public Access Plan



Key Actions From Plan:

- More assessment and design for potential access
- Fill strategic gaps along the trails
- Incorporate potential public access sites in key state and local plans
- Establish MOUs with DOTs
- Explore potential for access on public lands
- Further address accessibility issues

Chesapeake Bay Watershed Public Access Plan



Bottom Line:

There is a high need for additional public access.

This plan provides guidance and support for development of new access sites.

When land use planning or land conservation is being considered along the Bay and its tributaries appropriate public access should always be evaluated as part of the potential use mix.

Chesapeake Bay Watershed Public Access Plan



Plan Implementation Update:

Since the FY11 CHBA solicitation, public access projects have been the priority for financial awards

In FY 12, a dozen public access projects were awarded CHBA financial assistance; these projects are ongoing

Eighteen new public access sites (in support of the Plan goal of 300) were opened to the public in 2012

Public Access Plan Implementation



NPS CHBA FY13 Financial Assistance Awards:

Program Guidelines: To support the goals of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Public Access Plan, the NPS CHBA has again established public access site development as the priority funding emphasis for fiscal year 2013 financial assistance awards.

Applicants for NPS CHBA financial assistance awards must be either a non-profit organization (qualified as such under section 501(c) of the Internal Revenue Code) or a state or local government.

Public Access Plan Implementation



NPS CHBA FY13 Financial Assistance Awards:

Projects must accomplish one of the following:

- **New Access** - Addition of a brand new public access facility at a site where access is not currently available
OR
- **Enhanced Access** - Addition of a public access facility to allow a new type of access at an existing access site (e.g., developing a fishing pier or kayak launch at a site where only a boat ramp currently exists).

Projects must accomplish:

- **Construction** of public access facilities
OR
- **Planning and design** of public access facilities.

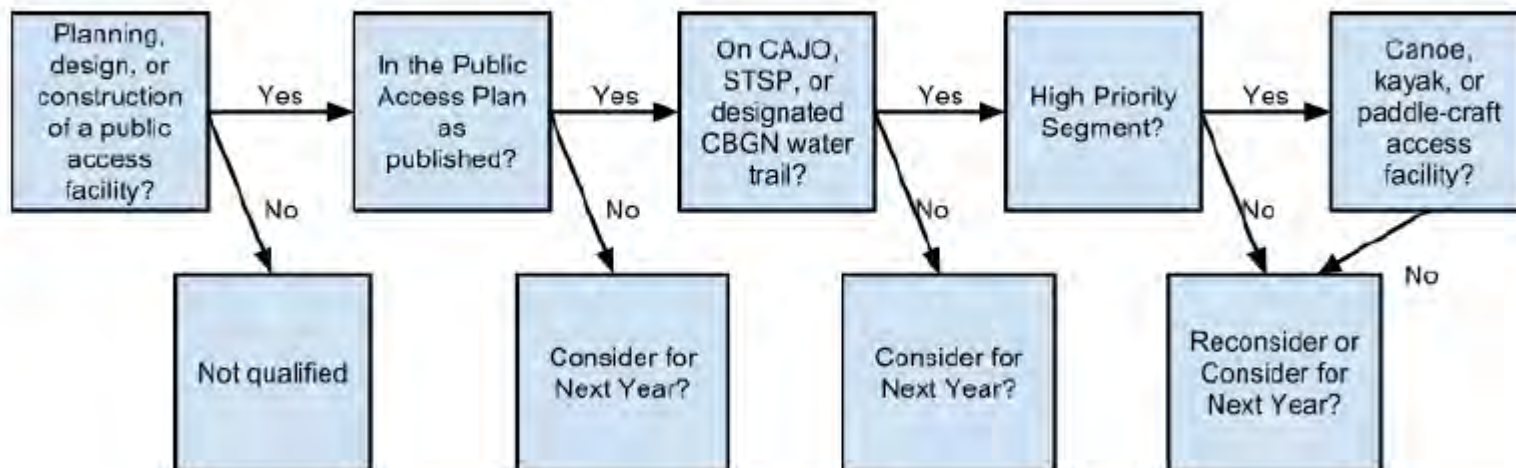
Public Access Plan Implementation



NPS CHBA FY13 Financial Assistance Awards:

Criteria

- 1 Public Access Facility Project -- New or Enhanced / Planning, Design, or Construction
- 2 Currently appear in the list of prioritized sites in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Public Access Plan as published
- 3 Advance development of CAJO, STSP, or designated CBGN water trail
- 4 On a high priority segment -- James, Lower Susquehanna, Patuxent, or Potomac rivers
- 5 Support canoe, kayak or other paddle-craft access



Public Access Plan Implementation



NPS CHBA FY13 Financial Assistance Awards:

Twenty-four applications submitted in 2013; approx. 9-10 are pending for awards; half of the projects are in Virginia

All pending awards are for projects identified as potential public access sites in the Public Access Plan

FY13 awards were made to the most qualified projects; nut additional highly competitive proposals will remain under consideration for future funding; some were disqualified

Public Access Plan Implementation



NPS CHBA FY13 Financial Assistance Awards:

Cooperators must comply with all applicable federal, state, and local environmental laws and regulations; and must:

- complete an Environmental Screening Form (ESF)
- secure all necessary permits
- build time for consultation, compliance and permitting into their SOW

All facilities and programming developed with NPS funding must be accessible to, and useable by, persons with disabilities to the greatest extent reasonable.

- The degree of accessibility will be proportional to the degree of human-made modifications in the project area, the nature of the topography, the significance of the attraction, the amount of physical modifications necessary to ensure accessibility.

Public Access Plan Implementation



SEAFORD CANOE LAUNCH RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. Operating hours: Dawn to Dusk
2. Canoes and kayaks only
3. No fishing or swimming
4. All vehicles must park in designated area

PLEASE KEEP AREA CLEAN!

CITY OF SEAFORD PARKS & REC. DEPT.
629-6809

Susquehanna River Water Trail

Lower Section—Safe Harbor to Mason-Dixon Line
PFB: Muddy Creek Access

The Susquehanna River is an American treasure reflecting the place and people of the Pennsylvania landscape. Enjoy your trip on the Susquehanna River Water Trail, an integral part of the Chesapeake Bay Gateway and Susquehanna River Gateway systems. The Susquehanna Gateway is a land and water based recreational corridor of rich space and scenic beauty. The Chesapeake Bay Gateway Network is a partnership system of over 20 water trails and 120 parks, refuges, museums, and historic sites in the Chesapeake watershed.



The gateway to the Chesapeake Bay. Protected landscape in the upper reaches. Riverfront agricultural lands in the Lancaster-York Heritage Region. Wide, shallow river sections.

This region is marked by historic river towns and large historic farms. The river is a natural resource. The river is a natural resource. The river is a natural resource.



For Your Safety & Enjoyment

- Always wear a life jacket.
- Always follow local boating regulations.
- Be prepared for your journey.
- Check the weather and river conditions.
- Leave no trace.

Plan Your Trip

Get planning before you go. Check the weather and river conditions. Check the weather and river conditions.

Check the weather and river conditions. Check the weather and river conditions.

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Check the weather and river conditions. Check the weather and river conditions.

Leave No Trace

Don't cut or strip bark on trees without permission. Dispose of waste properly. Leave food and food wrappers sealed. Respect wildlife. Be considerate of other visitors.



The River and the Bay

The Susquehanna River is a natural resource. The river is a natural resource. The river is a natural resource.



For more information, visit the website: www.susquehanna-water-trail.org





Captain John Smith Chesapeake
National Historic Trail

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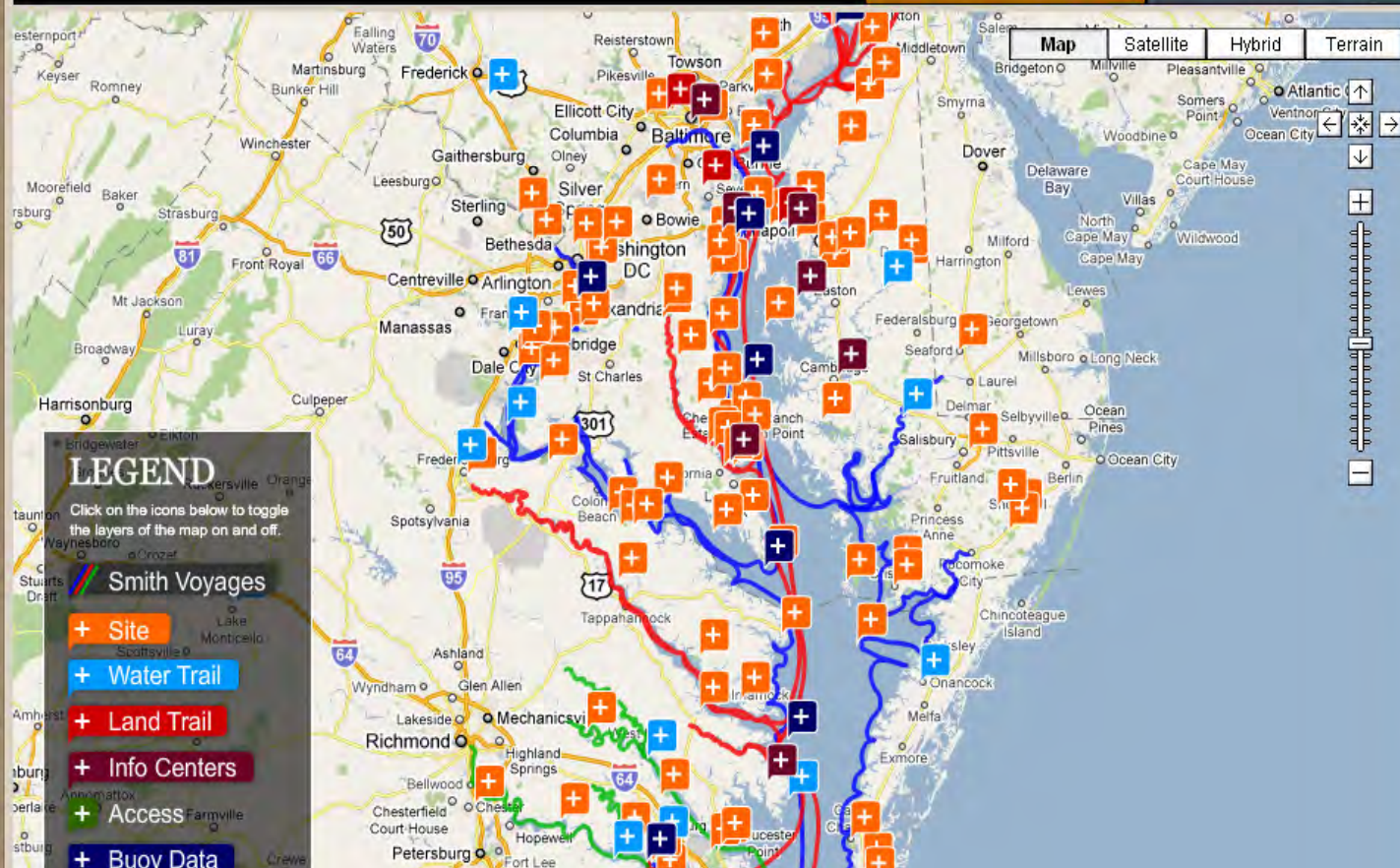
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CHESAPEAKE EXPLORER



CHESAPEAKE EXPLORER



Sassafras River Water Trail

And the Associated Creeks of Northern Kent County, Maryland

Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail



This map is intended as a reference source only and is not to be used as an aid for navigation.

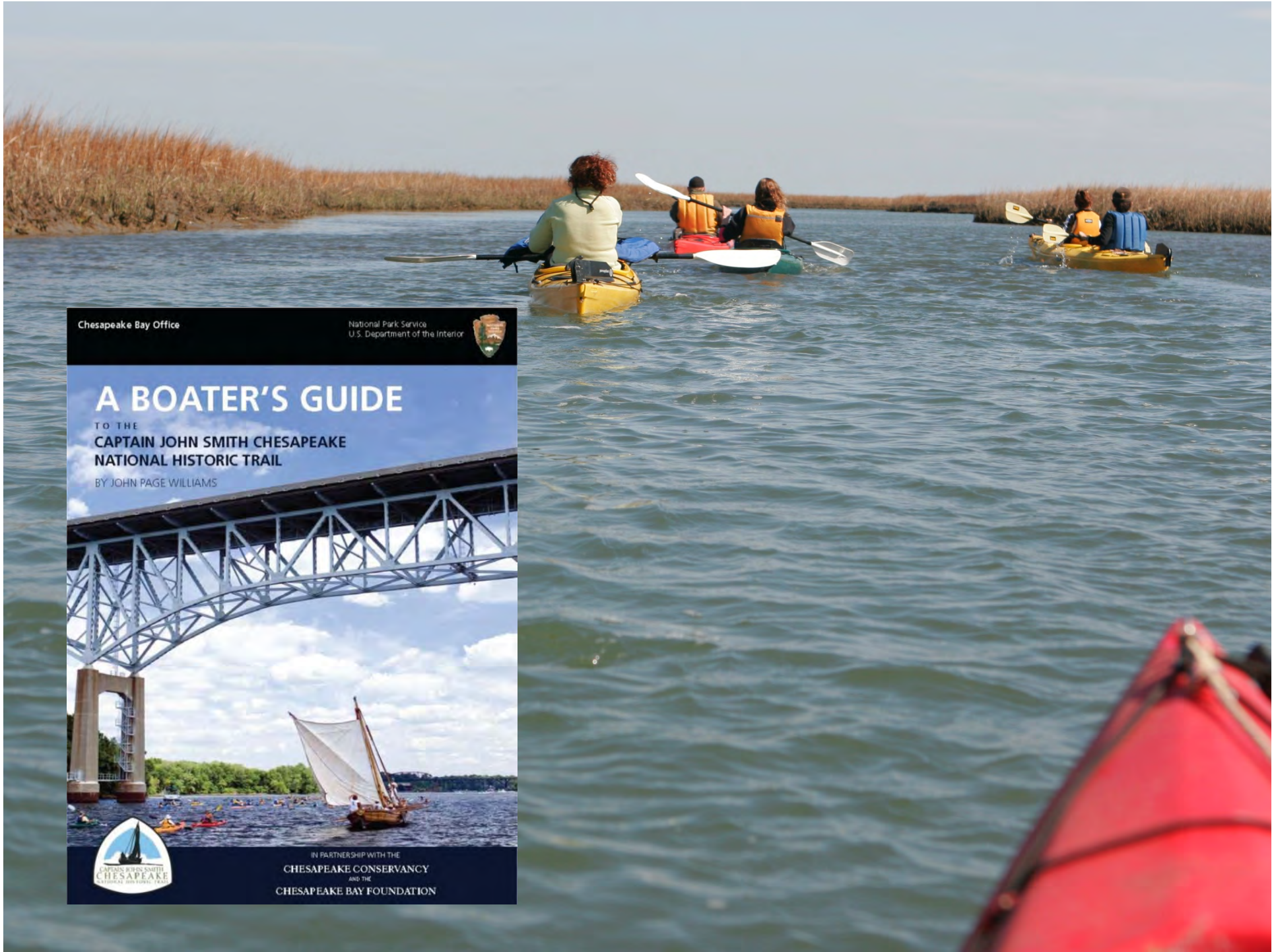
Public Landings On or Near the Sassafras River

Permit requirements for each landing are listed below. Requirements may be subject to change. For latest information on Kent County landings (Kent) contact 410-776-2900. For latest information on Cecil County landings (Cecil) contact 410-776-2900.

SASSAFRAS RIVER WATER TRAIL

And the Associated Creeks of Northern Kent County





Chesapeake Bay Office

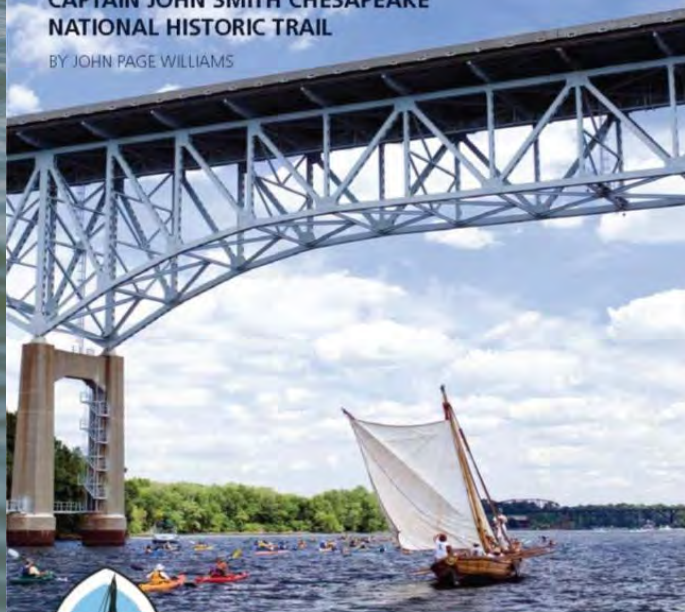
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



A BOATER'S GUIDE

TO THE
**CAPTAIN JOHN SMITH CHESAPEAKE
NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL**

BY JOHN PAGE WILLIAMS



IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE
CHESAPEAKE CONSERVANCY
AND THE
CHESAPEAKE BAY FOUNDATION

National Park Service Chesapeake Bay

